

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 as follows:

~~Figure 5B is a~~**Figures 5B-5G are** graphical ~~representation~~**representations** showing linear MALDI-TOF spectra of cleavage products. The spectra on the left show a mass range of 1000 to 3500 and those on the right are the same spectra but show in detail the mass range from 1000 to 1700. Spectra ~~i-a-and-b~~**5B and 5C** are from a -/- individual, spectra ~~ii-a-and-b~~**5D and 5E** are from a +/+ individual, and spectra ~~iii-a-and-b~~**5F and 5G** are from a +/- individual. Observed masses are indicated above peaks. Arrows show the peaks that change between the two alleles.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8 as follows:

~~Figure 6 is a~~**Figures 6A-6B are** graphical ~~representation~~**representations** of the mass spectrum analysed using post source decay (PSD) on a MALDI-TOF instrument. Spectrum 6A is a 6mer of sequence CATCCT {(SEQ ID NO:16)} and spectrum 6B is a 6mer of sequence CACCTT {(SEQ ID NO:17)}. Both have parent ion mass of 1727.2Da. Observed masses are shown above the peaks. PSD fragments are shown at an intensity magnification of five.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 24 as follows:

A PCR assay was designed to incorporate the mutated region and then subjected to uracil –N glycosylase treatment. The products were purified and analysed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. The sequence of the PCR primers and product along with the mutation are shown in figure 4. The C to T change gives rise to a Taq RFLP and this can be seen in homozygote and heterozygote state in ~~Figure 5~~**Figures 5A-5G**. The spectra generated by the MALDI-TOF can also be seen in ~~Figure 5~~**Figures 5A-5G**. The expected and observed masses of the cleavage products from the two alleles are given in Table 5. The position of the mutation and deduction of the changed base is evident from study of this Table.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 17 as follows:

The utility of MALDI-TOF analysis with PSD is demonstrated in ~~Figure 6~~Figures 6A-6B where two oligonucleotides of identical nucleotide composition are separated by MALDI-TOF using PSD. The resulting spectra are quite distinguishable. Sequence determination of small oligonucleotides is feasible using molecular dissociation methods and, therefore, the subject method extrapolates into an accurate resequencing protocol.